

Appl. No. 10/656,445
Amdt. Dated 6/2/2004
Reply to Office Action of 3/5/2004

Remarks/Arguments

Applicant would like to thank the examiner for the thorough review of the present application. Claims 1-5 have been canceled. Independent claims 6 and 10 have been amended to overcome the lack of antecedent basis, as helpfully pointed out by the examiner.

The examiner has rejected independent claims 6 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Godfrey in view of Libbey. Applicant respectfully submits the examiner has mischaracterized Libbey. In particular, Libbey does not disclose a plurality of electrical contacts connected to said plurality of gate sections and said plurality of elongate members, as claimed in applicant's independent claims 6 and 10. Rather, Libbey discloses conductive stop members 11, 12 removably engageable with flip-flop relays 8 (column 3, lines 7-30). It is presumed the examiner has equated applicant's claimed electrical contacts with Libbey's conductive stop members 11, 12 because the examiner does not specifically reference such a relationship in the office action.

However, in contrast to applicant's claimed electrical contacts, Libbey's conductive stop members 11, 12 are clearly isolated and not connected to the flip-flops 8 or any equivalent of applicant's claimed gate sections and claimed elongate members. Libbey's flip-flops 8 selectively engage the conductive stop members 11, 12 when same are toggled between pivoted positions (see FIGS. 3 and 6), and therefore do not disclose the structural relationship of applicant's claimed electrical contacts with the claimed gate sections and claimed elongate members. No other prior art of record, whether considered individually or in combination, discloses Libbey's shortcoming.

For the reasons advanced above, all pending independent claims are in condition for allowance. All pending dependent claims include the recitations of their respective independent claims and are therefore in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.


Should the examiner consider necessary or desirable to make formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawings, then it is respectfully asked that such changes be made by examiner's Amendment, if the examiner feels this would

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facilitate passage of the case to issuance. Alternatively, should the examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
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By


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